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Ms. Donna R. Searcy Secretary Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Searcy:

Transmitted herewith on behalf of MCI Tele-communications Corporation are an original and nine copies of its Reply Comments In the Matter of Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact on the Existing Television Broadcast Service; Review of Technical and Operational Requirements: Part 73-E; Reevaluation of the UHF Television Channel and Distance Separation Requirements, MM Docket No. 87-268.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, kindly communicate directly with this office.

Sincerely yours,

WJBpg

Enclosures

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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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FILE

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of

Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact on the Existing Television Broadcast Service

Review of Technical and Operational)
Requirements: Part 73-E

Reevaluation of the UHF Television Channel and Distance Separation Requirements MM Docket No. 87-268

REPLY COMMENTS OF MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

MCI Telecommunications Corporation submits these Reply Comments pursuant to the Commission's Tentative Decision and Further Notice of Inquiry of September 1, 1988 in the proceeding captioned above, 65 RR 2d 295, 305. MCI urges that the Commission take appropriate steps to promote the adoption of a receiver interface standard permitting diverse inputs on a non-discriminatory basis.

A large number of very thoughtful and useful comments have been filed. They reflect a wide variety of technological and economic judgments. Many of these differences can and should be worked out by the normal processes of the marketplace. The Commission should adopt a framework that permits qualified organizations with differing visions to pursue them without imposing unnecessary a priori constraints on others with different approaches. The fundamental question for the Commission is

to determine which questions must be resolved by governmentally enforced standards and which can be left to the marketplace. MCI agrees that, while there may be a need to adopt a transmission standard for broadcast television, no transmission standard should be adopted with respect to alternative delivery technologies.

The comments make abundantly clear that the public is currently limited to a technologically archaic set of television standards. The principal impediment to the development of television service reflecting the technical state of the art is the massive investment by the public in television receivers requiring the use of technically outdated standards. This is not only the biggest problem, but the one which by its nature, requires the longest time to remove.

It is not in the public interest to bend all transmission and delivery technologies to the Procrustean bed of the limited bands available for television distribution in the radio spectrum. The Commission should encourage efforts to insure that receivers from now on are made as accommodating as possible not only to new and old broadcast transmission standards, but also readily and efficiently to VCR's, cable, optical fiber, DBS, optical disks, computers and other technologies. This will promote competition and ensure the best service for the public. MCI agrees with the many parties who have emphasized the

importance of assuring the development of an ATV receiver Such an interface should assure the interface standard. availability of receivers, not only to traditional television entertainment services through a variety of media, but also to other services using video displays from sources as diverse as possible. The interface chosen should neither exclude nor handicap any potential provider of services or equipment that makes use of video displays. Commission should closely monitor industry discussions to assure that smaller parties are not adversely affected by the development of interface standards that give preferential advantage to dominant entities. The views of all potentially affected parties with an interest in the provision of services and equipment involving the use of video displays should be obtained in the development standards so that any possibility of unfair discrimination is avoided.

Respectfully submitted,

MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

By its Attorney

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January 23, 1989

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Pat Green, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing REPLY COMMENTS OF MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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